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A further Account of the Diſpenſary, *at the* College *of Phyſicians, and St* Martin's-Lane, Weſtminſter, *and others to be erected in* London *for the ſervice of the Publick.*

THat the Profeſſion of *Phyſick* is moſt uſeful to Mankind, is acknowledg'd by all who are viſited with Sickneſs; Health being the chief part of the Happineſs of Life.

It has been always eſteem'd one of the moſt *Learned* Profeſſions. Without the Languages the *beſt Authors* in the *Art* cannot be read, nor the very Terms even in the Tranſlation into the modern Languages underſtood.

We muſt have recourſe to Authors of *former* times, and conſider the *Deſcriptions* of *Diſeaſes* delivered by them; and the *Methods* and *Medicines* by which they were cur'd muſt be carefully conſider'd, unleſs we will begin to find out the one and the other by *Experiment*, ſometimes favourable, at other times fatal to the ſick.

The *Phyſicians* of *London* (by whom the Art has been very much improved) did formerly ſupport the Honour and Dignity of the Profeſſion.

By what means the *Art* has of late lain under a dejection and neglect, the *Phyſicians* being often ſhifted, and maintaining a reputation frequently but a few years, will eaſily be underſtood by obſerving the true and juſt Account of the Affair.

Some years ſince the *Phyſicians* maintain'd a juſt regard and honourable reſpect with their *Patients*, and the *Apothecary* acquitted himſelf in the careful preparation of Phyſick.

Advice was then given at the *Phyſicians Houſe* in *Chronical* Caſes, and the approaches of Diſtempers, as the Clients apply to the Councellours.

One Bill for Phyſick of a week or longer time, and a moderate Fee, were both an Expence eaſie to the People.

Theſe *Phyſicians* (not flying upon every little complaint to every corner of the Town) had an Hour to conſider every *Patient* in *Danger* and *Difficulty*.

The *Conſultations* were then ſolemn, and ſuitable to the importance of the Caſe, not ſhooting as on the gallop, and preſcribing *ex tempore*, as is now the mode, and ſuggeſted as an evident ſign of Skill and Dexterity.

The Sick were then recover'd (ſometimes in few days) by the *Phyſician* apply'd to in the beginning.

They are now call'd in when made *deplorable* by ill treatment, when the *deadly ſymptoms* appear, and bear the Infamy and Scandal of all the Deaths in the Town.

The *Phyſician* inſtructed the *Patient* or *Attendant* in the uſe of his *Preſcript*, by directions *written by himſelf*. The Note was convey'd by a Servant to the Shop, where the Apothecary ought to attend, to prepare and compound the Remedies with the utmoſt Care and Exactneſs.

The Preparation and Delivering of Medicines was a Part of the *Grocers*, Trade. But at laſt the Apothecaries were ſeparated from them, that they might apply themſelves entirely to an affair of ſo great conſequence to the Health and Lives of the People.

Which reaſon holds much more ſtrongly at this time, upon the Account of the vaſt increaſe of the *Galenical* Compoſitions, the invention or introduction of very many *Chymical* Preparations, the Cuſtom of Phyſicians to order many *extemporary* compound Medicines; a miſtake in many of which, either in the juſt weight or meaſure, does often prove *fatal* and *deſtructive* to the Patient.

Since this Separation they have multiply'd ſo exceſſively (and are all full of Apprentices) that at the time of obtaining their Charter being 114, a prodigious number, in reſpect of what moſt well regulated Cities abroad find ſufficient, allowing only 5 or 6, and *publiſhing* the *prizes* of all Medicines yearly. That they are now increas'd to near 1000, computing the Partners, and others, which keep Apothecaries Shops.

To raiſe a *Profit* proportionable to their vaſt increaſe in Numbers, they began to encroach upon the *Phyſicians*, and exact extravagantly upon the Sick their Cuſtomers.

In order to which, they began firſt by officious Viſits, under pretence of carrying the Phyſick themſelves, to procure the reputation of careful men, tho by it they *changed offices* with their Boys, and left them at home to do the *duty of the Maſter*, while themſelves ran on the errands.

This gave them the opportunities of inſinuating themſelves into *Nurſes*, *Servants*, and other weak perſons attending the Sick, and by their means to be admitted to give their Opinions, and thence under pretence of good Husbandry for the Patient, to repeat the *Phyſicians* Bills without his order, and at laſt to preſcribe without his advice.

Upon the ſame pretence of *good Husbandry* for the Patient, they wrought themſelves into the ſole care of ſuch ſlight Indiſpoſitions, as were likely to determine in a ſhort time without Medicines (by the ſtrength of the Conſtitution) which they fail'd not to improve into terrible Diſeaſes and mighty Cures, by affrighting the Sick and thoſe about them with *Malignity*, and ſuch like *terrible Prognoſticks*.

This gave them credit and authority enough with the people, to cenſure the *Bills* of *Phyſicians*, who were not ſubſervient to their Intereſts; and deliver their opinions very different, often contradictory to the Preſcriber. *Impudent* and *illiterate Prattle*, with ſome *high terms* of *Art*, very eaſily paſſing upon the Vulgar.

This Point gain'd, no bounds could hold them. Thus nothing in *Practice* ſo *difficult* or *doubtful*, they dare not venture at, nothing in *Phyſick* ſo *Corrupt*, they will not allow good enough for common uſe.

They are now become *Phyſicians*, and the heedleſs, ſenſeleſs Boy at home good enough for an Apothecary.

This new Dignity of *Doctor*, given firſt by the *Nurſe* and *Servants*, was not to be ſupported without an additional Duty laid on their Medicines, to be paid by their Cuſtomers.

The rates of Compoſitions exorbitantly rais'd. Theſe are to be mixt and ſubdivided, and (which is myſterious) each part valued at the price of the whole.

Decoctions and *Juleps* are put into ſmall Glaſſes, for each *Draught* of the Patient. The Electuaries are transform'd into 12 or 14 *Boles*.

By this Artifice a *Quart* of *bitter Decoction*, or ſuch like, well paid for at a Shilling, will fetch 8 or 10, and a *Pound* of *Venice Treacle* (Bolus'd with Drugs as cheap) worth 4 Shillings, will procure near as many pounds.

This is exactly true in all other Medicines, as a medium for the differing Proportions.

This is not ſo much inſiſted on and expos'd, as that the Patient does not only ſuffer this extortion for what he has, but for what he has not, when *Ruſſian Caſtor*, *Pearl*, and *Engliſh Saffron*, *&c.* are directed in the Bill, and *New England Caſtor*, *Crabs Eyes*, *Oyſter-ſhells*, and *Turmerick*, *&c.* put into the Medicine.

But, which is yet more iutolerable, the Patient, if under the direction of an *Apothecary* alone, or a *Confederate of his recommendation*, is ſure to be cramm'd with abundance of nauſeous, unneceſſary, and conſequently injurious Traſh, till the overloaded and oppreſt Stomach refuſes any further abuſe, or Death interpoſes, to give a period to the management. This is done to ſwell the Account, and raiſe the Apothecaries Gains, whoſe *Fees* and *Profit* by theſe Arts uſually treble the *Phyſicians* in every Patient they are concern'd with.

A Grievance yet more *pernicious* ariſes from the *Apothecaries* abſenting themſelves from their Shops, that they can't attend the making the greater Shop Compoſitions, which require Art and Care to be well made. Many of 'em having been bred under Maſters of the practiſing way, know not how to do it were they diſpos'd.

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This obliges 'em to furniſh themſelves from the *wholeſale Apothecaries*; a ſort of traders, who deal in corrupt and ſophiſticated ware. Hence it is evident, that moſt of 'em can't warrant the goodneſs of the Phyſick they ſell, or the *Phyſician* or *Patient* depend on it. All theſe and the *Chymical* are diſpens'd by the heedleſs Boy, whom every amuſement diverts from his attention, and every ſlight reſemblance betrays into fatal miſtakes.

Another great miſchief of the moſt ruinous conſequence to the Sick, is from the early, officious viſits of the Apothecary, which to ſhew their impertinent care, they make in the morning, and by their *unſeaſonable*, injudicious Prattle *rob* the Patient of the only time, in which after the reſtleſsneſs of the night, he is uſually inclin'd to *repoſe*, which temper thus ruffled by the officious intruſion of the Apothecary, is not again to be recovered in the whole Day, whence frequently follow a perpetual *Inquietude*, *Delirionſueſs*, *Convulſions* and *Death*.

Theſe abuſes were long ſince obſerved and condemn'd by many *Phyſicians*. But the Apothecaries (whoſe Intereſt it is to oppoſe any reformation) entred into an *Aſſociation* to *decry* and *vilify* all *Reformers* in this affair, and to recommend thoſe only, who would *confederate* with them, and countenance and juſtify theſe enormous impoſitions on the Health and Lives of the Patients.

To this end, *Liſts* were handed thro their whole Company, by which the *Phyſicians* were *markt* and *diſtinguiſht*, that the *Fraternity* might ſurely know whom to *aſperſe* and *vilifie*, and whom to *cry up* and *magnifie* to their Cuſtomers, as fit only to be conſulted with.

This method brought over and confirm'd to 'em thoſe *Phyſicians* who were ready to *ſacrifice* their *Patients*, and *proſtitute* their own *Honour* and *Conſcience* to the *ſervice* of the *Apothecaries* and their *own immediate* profit.

By theſe was introduc'd the mode of writing expenſive *long Bills*, by which often the ſlighteſt Caſe is charg'd at *twenty*, *forty* ſhillings daily, altho it is difficult for moſt Patients to bear and ſupport more than 2 or 3 ſhillings, honeſtly preſcrib'd and modeſtly rated.

Theſe Phyſicians are oblig'd by the ſame reaſons to *abett* and *juſtifie* the *Practice* of the *Apothecary*, when he finds the Sick almoſt ruin'd by too much improper Phyſick, directed by chance and at random. The people are thus kept in ignorance of the Cheat put upon 'em in theſe particulars, and what elſe his new Maſter the Apothecary requires of him.

After theſe it would ſeem trifling to mention the playing one *Phyſician preſently after another*, to *change every week the methods of Phyſick*, that a vaſt abundance may be taken, by the Patients Palate being to be pleas'd, and a new vigour reſum'd, to begin chearfully with every freſh advice.

Theſe vile abuſes can only be remedy'd by the *Subſcribers* to the *Diſpenſary*, where all, both *Galenical* and *Chymical* Medicines are faithfully prepar'd of the choiceſt Drugs, and Diſpenc'd with the utmoſt Care. The Price of all Medicines ſet to the *Bill* by the *Preſcriber* is *fifteen ſhillings in the pound* cheaper than the moſt modeſt rates of the *Apothecaries*.

The relief vaſt numbers have had (near 20000 Bills having been there made up) at the *College Diſpenſary*, has brought ſo much buſineſs to it, that it begins to be impoſſible to ſerve all at one place, the *Phyſicians* have reſolv'd to erect *divers* in proper parts of the *City*: that their Patients in all parts may participate of its advantage.

There is now one erected in *St Martin's-lane*, *Weſtminſter*, where the *Phyſician*'s Note brought by the Patient's Servant is faithfully anſwer'd, and where they meet (as at the College) for the relief of the meaner people, on *Tueſday* and *Friday* afternoon *two Phyſicians* meeting in their turns for that purpoſe.

At theſe Diſpenſaries are prepar'd ſeveral of their more valued Medicines, collected from the frequent conſultations of the Subſcribers, which are always ready, and cannot be ſuddenly prepar'd by the Apothecary in the exigence of many Diſtempers.

The Apothecaries have many years valu'd themſelves by pretending to govern ll Families, as they phraſe it. But unleſs they will continue willingly to be led by the Noſe, and ridiculouſly flatter themſelves, that the *Apothecary* trifles away his time only at their Houſes, they will deſire to be honeſtly treated for the future, and expect that attendance at his Shop from the Apothecary which his Name imports, and which is the only buſineſs he can juſtly pretend to.

When therefore the *Apothecaries* ſhall keep their *Shops*, and carefully make and diſpence the Medicines ordered by *Phyſicians*, and make their prizes ſupportable to the people, and no longer *debauch* many *Members* of the *College*, to the *Scandal* of their own *Profeſſion*, and *deſtruction* and *ruine* of their *Patients*, which rely on their Integrity ; the Diſpenſary and They will come to agree in the purſuit of the ſame honourable Deſign ; and both will be equally acceptable to the *Phyſicians* and *Patients*.